

# The Idaho State Department of Agriculture

The Idaho Legislature created the Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) in 1919 to assist and regulate the state's fast-growing agricultural industry. The primary purposes for establishment were to protect Idaho's crops and livestock from the introduction and spread of pests and transmittable diseases, to help provide the industry with a system for the orderly marketing of agricultural commodities, and to protect consumers from contaminated products or fraudulent marketing practices. These purposes still drive the department today.

The department derives its statutory authority from multiple sections of the Idaho Code. Section 22-101 creates the Department of Agriculture and the position of director. Section 22-102 provides that the director "shall organize the department into such divisions and other administrative sub-units as may be necessary in order to efficiently administer the department," and section 22-103 lists specific directorial duties. Title 22 also contains the authority for the Plant Industries Division, the Agricultural Resources Division, and the department's Marketing Bureau. The primary authority for the Animal Industries Division lies within Title 25 and Title 37, while the Agricultural Inspections Division, which includes the Bureaus of Weights and Measures and Bonded Warehouse, derives authority from Titles 69 and 71.

In addition to the seven divisions which primarily make up the ISDA, five commodity commissions - the Idaho Alfalfa and Clover Seed Commission, Idaho Honey Advertising Commission, Idaho Hop Commission, Idaho Mint Commission and Idaho Sheep Commission - are also technically housed within the ISDA, although each entity maintains its autonomy. The department works closely with all other agriculture commodity commissions. The Idaho Food Quality Assurance Laboratory was assigned by the Idaho Legislature to the Department of Agriculture on July 1, 2005, and the department works cooperatively with the Idaho Food Quality Assurance Institute to administer the day-to-day operations of the laboratory.

The Idaho State Department of Agriculture has a current budget of approximately \$39 million. For FY2010, the state general fund accounts for 28.3 percent of the budget. The remainder of the department's funding comes from various types of fees assessed directly to the segment of industry being regulated or receiving services. Federal sources also assist the department with the funding of certain programs. The department is currently staffed with approximately 326 full-time employees. The Bureau of Shipping Point Inspection and other units of the department also hire hundreds of seasonal employees each year.



those producers. Testing was completed as rapidly as possible in order to minimize disruption of normal dairy operations.

*The Idaho State Department of Agriculture is housed in the Wilson "Bill" Kellogg building dedicated on October 12, 1979.*

In August of 2008 the Division of Animal Industries was called upon to respond to an outbreak of Avian Influenza in a game bird farm. The farm was quarantined and subsequently 32,000 game birds were depopulated due to the outbreak. Cleaning and disinfection of the property was completed in late October followed by weekly testing of sentinel birds in the facility over a four week period. With all sentinel birds testing negative, the facility was released from quarantine enabling the producer to repopulate and resume normal business activities. All trade restrictions placed on Idaho producers due to this outbreak were removed by March 1, 2009. The division also completed tuberculosis testing of approximately 40,000 head of Idaho dairy cattle during the late summer and early fall of 2008. The testing involved herds that had imported bulls from a known positive dairy herd in California as well as herds that had received cattle from those producers. No tuberculosis infection was found and Idaho's Tuberculosis Accredited Free status was maintained. As a result, Idaho dairy producers were not subject to increased testing of dairy cattle for interstate movement.

As a result of legislative action during the 2009 session, the Invasive Species Sticker, required for boats and other watercraft, provided a funding mechanism for the Invasive Species Fund. The program's focus is on preventing the introduction of aquatic invasive species such as quagga and zebra mussels from entering the state from infested waterbodies in other states. Program development focused on outreach, education, inspection of watercraft and monitoring of waterbodies across Idaho. By the time FY2009 came to a close, 18 inspection stations were in place across the state.

The Agriculture industry in Idaho is changing, and the Idaho State Department of Agriculture is changing too. The department of the 21<sup>st</sup> century recognizes that agriculture has a broad constituency that includes not only the industry but the consumers of agriculture products, farm, ranch and urban neighbors. The department considers each new challenge a new opportunity and stands ready to provide leadership.

## **A Mission, A Vision, A Philosophy**

The Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) has adopted the following mission, vision and philosophy to help direct the agency's regulatory, promotional, and policy-making activities toward a common goal:

### **Mission**

Serving consumers and agriculture by safeguarding the public, plants, animals, and the environment through education and regulation.

### **Vision**

The Idaho State Department of Agriculture has an ever-important place in one of the state's largest industry sectors. We recognize that Idaho's economic well-being is forever tied to the health of its farming and ranching. We also recognize that new opportunities exist that will redefine the future of agriculture in Idaho. As agriculture changes, ensuring efficient and superior service delivery will continue to be the department's foremost priority. The pledge has been made to optimize the value of principles our farmers and ranchers have framed over the past century.

The director believes that fostering a cooperative atmosphere within the agency and with other state agencies creates the opportunity for increased internal efficiency, as well as, prompt and complete customer-driven service delivery. She will continue to encourage personal and professional development through education and training, and motivate employees by providing meaningful work-related challenges. In addition, her availability to the public and agency employees reinforces her commitment to the success of the industry.

## **ISDA Goals and Objectives**

The Idaho State Department of Agriculture strives to be the model for government agencies, providing a careful balance of education, regulation and promotion of the agriculture industry in the state. ISDA will:

- Offer superior protection to the public and the agriculture industry.
- Improve the quality and uniformity of current services provided to industry.
- Enhance the department's customer service structure.
- Address public concerns regarding animal care and water and air quality.
- Continue to educate the agriculture industry about environmental stewardship and statutory obligations.
- Work with the agriculture industry to identify Best Management Practices.
- Provide the public with timely and accurate information on regulatory and monitoring activities.
- Support full implementation of a record management program.
- Work closely with the public, agriculture industry and other government agencies to identify emerging issues.
- Promote Idaho agriculture products through trade shows, trade missions, in-store promotions, cooking shows, publications and other events.
- Increase the identity, awareness and consumption of products grown and processed in Idaho through the Idaho Preferred® label.
- Improve domestic and international transportation systems for agricultural products.
- Increase exports through the management of Idaho trade offices in Mexico, Taiwan, and China while working to identify and remove trade barriers that prohibit or limit export of Idaho products.
- Continue to ensure the accuracy and reliability of scales and devices that are used by consumers and producers.
- Encourage employee innovation, creativity and forward-thinking.
- Continue to examine the department's organizational and operational framework to find efficiencies.

## Idaho State Department of Agriculture Administration



### **Celia R. Gould, Director**

Director Gould was appointed by Governor C. L. "Butch" Otter to the Idaho State Department of Agriculture in January 2007. Celia is a third generation farmer/rancher and continues to actively participate in the family operation raising black-angus cattle, corn, wheat and hay. Celia's objectives for ISDA include: enhancement of the customer service structure of the agency through quality and uniformity, partnering with Idaho producers to showcase and ensure quality products, retain and train employees to ensure the highest quality of professional expertise; and administer the business of the department efficiently and effectively.



### **Brian Oakey, Deputy Director**

In March of 2007 Brian became the Deputy Director at ISDA. Brian's duties as deputy director include advising the Director, Chief of Staff and administrators on policy related matters and representing the department in interagency and constituent negotiations as assigned by the Director. He previously worked with the Attorney General's office representing the ISDA in litigation, contested case proceedings and advising administration and staff on legal matters including public records, legislation and rule making, contracts and leases, and various other legal matters. He received a Master of Laws degree in Agricultural Law from the University of Arkansas in May 2003 and a Juris doctorate degree from Drake University in 2002. While attending law school, Brian served as the Drake Agricultural Law Society President and the Editor-in-Chief of the Drake Journal of Agricultural Law.



### **Pamm Juker, Chief of Staff/Communications Director**

In April of 2007 Pamm became the Chief of Staff and Communication Director for the department focusing on fostering a reliable communication system between diverse divisions within the department, as well as, with other state agencies, customers, the public and media. Pamm manages internal communications to encourage innovation and information sharing within the department as well as plays an integral part in the policy component for the agency. In addition, she coordinates public information activities in support of the Director and department and has stepped in as interim division administrator. Pamm manages the Records Management program and plans, organizes and directs other department-wide projects. She also assists the Director with administrative, personnel, and policy decision-making. She has served the state since 1996 and currently represents the department on several advisory committees and the state PIER Team which coordinates state services and agencies in the event of a natural disaster or terror attempt. Pamm received a Bachelor of Business in 1980 and a Masters of Public Administration in 2008, both from Boise State University.

**Kelly Nielsen, Administrative Support Programs**

Kelly oversees the administrative programs of the department including: financial management, human resources, information technology, and legal services. This division is responsible for providing administrative services for the other internal divisions of the Department and external customers including the Soil Conservation Commission, Quality Assurance Institute, Idaho Aquaculture and the Board of Veterinary Services. The services provided include accounting, payroll, training, employee development, help desk, programming, server administration, mail services, building and complex maintenance, and capital projects. This division seeks to provide quality service to both external and internal customers at a minimal overhead cost.



**Laura Johnson, International Trade and Domestic Market Development**

The goal of the Market Development Division is to increase domestic and international sales opportunities for Idaho food and agricultural products to foster industry growth and profitability. The division increases the consumption of locally grown products in retail, schools and food service through the Idaho Preferred® program. A comprehensive approach to international market development includes promotion, trade policy, transportation and education. The third area of focus is on Ag diversification including value-added processing and new uses for agricultural products such as energy.



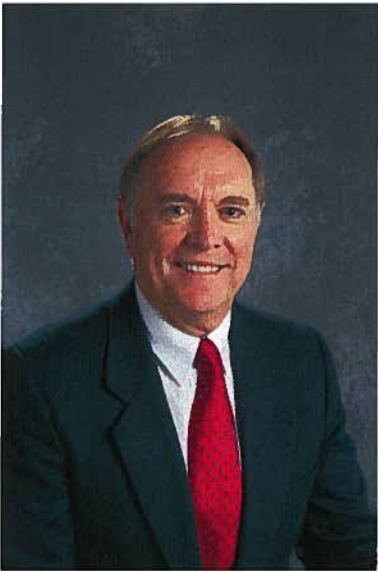
**George Robinson, Division of Agricultural Resources** The Division of Agricultural Resources is designated to protect human health, the environment, and animal and wildlife species of the state from potential adverse effects of agricultural activities. The division registers pesticides for sale and use in Idaho and trains and licenses pesticide applicators and chemigators. In coordination with agriculture professionals, agencies, and the public, the department has improved protection of human health, the environment, and fish and wildlife species of the state from potential adverse effects of pesticides. The division also coordinates a statewide pesticide disposal program safely collecting and disposing of unusable pesticides in Idaho since 1993.





**Fred Rios, Division of Agricultural Inspections**

The Division of Agricultural Inspections inspects and certifies the grades on more than 10 billion pounds of Idaho commodities. Idaho's commitment to quality is recognized throughout the United States and in the international arena. In order for our producers to sell their commodities to retailers, they have to have Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) in place as well as Good Agricultural Practices (GAP). This division is working with the private sector to offer auditing programs to accomplish these important goals. This division also oversees the Bureau of Weights and Measures program which enforces accuracy, design, and operating practices for all commercial weights and measured devices within the state to ensure uniformity and equity for the consumer and the business community. The Bonded Warehouse program also resides within the Division of Agricultural Inspections. It continues to improve with the implementation of new, more effective laws to better protect the producer, including those growers who grow seed under bailment contracts.



**Dr. Bill Barton, Division of Animal Industries**

The Division of Animal Industries consists of the Bureaus of Dairy/CAFOs; Animal Health and Livestock; Disease Surveillance and Diagnostics; and the Rangeland Management Program. Major functions include: disease control and eradication; animal identification; epidemiology; animal care and inspection; testing of animals; inspection of dairies and milk products; approval and inspection of dairy and beef waste systems; and the inspection and licensing of dairy processing facilities and various other animal agriculture facilities. Staff members also provide leadership in managing Idaho's natural resources and assistance in resolving rangeland management issues enhancing the viability of rural communities. This division's animal lab provides regulatory testing of animals for domestic and foreign markets; detection and control of animal diseases; and the testing of milk and milk products for quality, purity and adherence to standards of identity composition.



**Lloyd Knight, Division of Plant Industries**

In March of 2009 Lloyd became the Administrator of the Division of Plant Industries. This division is responsible for field inspections of crops and laboratory analyses for phytosanitary certification; survey and detection of exotic pests and diseases; registration of feeds, fertilizers, and soil and plant amendments, nurseries, bee colonies, and seed dealers; enforcement of quarantine rules; coordination of regional and statewide weed control activities; advising and assisting county weed control authorities of noxious weeds; and monitoring, preventing, and controlling invasive species. Four labs are associated with the division: the feed and fertilizer lab, the seed lab, the plant pathology lab, and the Idaho Food Quality Assurance Laboratory. Lloyd's previous experience includes budget analyst in the Division of Financial Management, Executive Vice President of the Idaho Cattle Association and past president of the Food Producers of Idaho. Lloyd has a degree in Animal Science from the University of Idaho.

## ISDA 2009 Budget Highlights

<i>Operating Budget</i>	<b>FY2007 Actual</b>	<b>FY2008 Actual</b>	<b>FY2009 Actual</b>	<b>FY2009 Approp</b>	<b>FY2010 Approp</b>
<i>By Program:</i>					
Administration	1,773,400	1,976,300	1,750,100	2,155,000	2,379,900
Animal Industries	4,903,800	4,479,500	4,213,700	5,976,800	5,816,400
Agricultural Resources	3,673,300	3,527,700	3,130,200	3,714,300	3,178,000
Plant Industries	11,460,700	11,547,400	12,541,100	16,624,000	10,623,300
Agricultural Inspections	7,611,000	8,484,100	8,160,500	10,952,700	10,753,400
Marketing and Development	1,191,500	1,149,600	1,341,000	1,754,300	1,606,200
Animal Damage Control	429,900	433,600	394,100	580,100	576,900
Sheep Commission	100,800	102,700	112,400	167,800	163,700
Soil Conservation Commission	4,725,600	4,793,600	4,669,400	4,856,700	4,593,500
<b>Total</b>	<b>35,870,000</b>	<b>36,494,500</b>	<b>36,312,500</b>	<b>46,781,700</b>	<b>39,691,300</b>
<i>By Fund Category:</i>					
General	10,727,700	16,407,800	16,367,800	17,966,000	11,258,700
Dedicated/Other	19,932,700	15,793,100	15,146,100	20,482,500	21,714,900
Federal	5,209,600	4,293,600	4,798,600	6,773,600	6,717,700
<b>Total</b>	<b>35,870,000</b>	<b>36,494,500</b>	<b>36,312,500</b>	<b>46,781,700</b>	<b>39,691,300</b>
<b>% Change from Previous Year</b>	<b>17.42%</b>	<b>1.74%</b>	<b>-0.50%</b>	<b>-.03%</b>	<b>-17.86%</b>
<i>By Object of Expenditure:</i>					
Personnel Costs	18,109,100	18,761,700	18,217,300	23,909,900	22,797,700
Operating Expenditures	7,638,100	7,796,300	7,817,800	9,536,400	8,978,300
Capital Outlay	1,124,500	874,800	487,800	513,500	705,500
Trustee/Benefit Payments	8,998,300	9,061,700	9,789,600	11,306,900	5,694,800
Lump Sum	0	0	0	1,515,000	1,515,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>35,870,000</b>	<b>36,494,500</b>	<b>36,312,500</b>	<b>46,781,700</b>	<b>39,691,300</b>
<b>Full-Time Positions (FTP)</b>	<b>237.25</b>	<b>237.25</b>	<b>232.25</b>	<b>232.25</b>	<b>226.70</b>

# 2009 Agricultural Legislation



Full bill details on legislation impacting ISDA can be found on the internet at:  
<http://www.legislature.idaho.gov/legislation/2009/minidata.htm>

**H 34aa: Commodity Dealers-** Revised license provisions and required peril insurance. (Idaho Code, Title 69, Chapter 5)

**H 35: Market News-** Amended existing law relating to the duties of the Director to provide for the support of a market news service and to delete reference to maintenance of a market news service. (Idaho Code, Title 22, Chapter 1)

**H 36: Pure Seed Law-** Revised the membership of the Seed Advisory Board by adding a representative for native plant seeds and revised sections regarding an arbitration committee to provide for the formation of a committee only as needed rather than as a standing committee. (Idaho Code, Title 22, Chapter 4).

**H 37: Bonded Warehouses and Commodity Indemnity Fund** - Provided that the fund shall not be liable for claims that result from losses due to uninsurable physical perils; and to provide that the fund shall not be liable for unpaid amounts for certain claims (Idaho Code, Title 69, Chapter 2)

**H 213: Vessels, add'l fees** - Provided for additional fees for specified watercraft, to provide for certain stickers and the collection and deposit of fees in the Invasive Species Fund. (Idaho Code, Title 67, Chapter 70)

**H 152aa: Rural Economic Development and Integrated Freight Transportation** – Revised existing law to limit grants to interest funds only and to allow for more than one grant a year. (Idaho Code, Title 49, Chapter 29)

**HCR 18: Natural Resources Interim Committee-** Established the Natural Resources Interim Committee appointed by the Legislative Council to gather information and to present findings and recommendations to the Legislature and requesting the Departments of Agriculture, Fish and Game, Lands and the Office of Species Conservation to provide information and recommendations to the interim committee.

**HCR 25: Soil Conservation Districts-** Authorized the Legislative Council to appoint a committee to undertake and complete a study of statutory provisions of the Idaho Code and any applicable rules relating to the Soil Conservation Commission and Soil Conservation Districts.

**S 1052: Farm Produce Dealers, Repeal-** Repealed existing law relating to dealers in farm produce. (Idaho Code, Title 22, Chapter 13)

**S 1054: Rural Economic Development and Integrated Freight Transportation** - Provided for annual funding for the administration of the program. (Idaho Code, Title 49, Chapter 29)

**S 1070: Beef Cattle Animal Feeding Operations** – Amended existing law to provide for the effect of the Federal Environmental Protection Agency enforcement actions on administrative or civil enforcement actions initiated by the Director of the Department of Agriculture and on certain orders issued by the Director. (Idaho Code, Title 22, Chapter 49)

**S 1071aa: Range Program** - Amended existing law relating to duties of the Director to provide that the Director shall administer a range program and to provide for the purpose of the program. (Idaho Code, Title 22, Chapter 1)

**S 1232: Bighorn Sheep** - Amended existing law relating to fish and game to provide that the department shall take specified action relating to the relocation of bighorn sheep, to state a policy of the state of Idaho, to provide for the development of a state management plan, to provide for the development of best management practices with certain permittees, to provide for certain certification by the Director of the Department of Fish and Game; and to delete reference to provisions relating to the employment of certain veterinarians by the Department of Agriculture. (Idaho Code, Title 36, Chapter 1)

**SCR 109: Quagga and Zebra Mussel Prevention** - Stated findings of the Legislature resolving that a condition of extreme peril exists in and around the water bodies of the state of Idaho; proclaiming that a state of emergency exists

within the state of Idaho; and asking that deficiency warrant funding authorized by the Idaho Invasive Species Act of 2008 be used by the Idaho State Department of Agriculture for personnel, equipment and facilities for the performance of any and all activities associated with quagga and zebra mussel prevention, development and implementation of incident response plans and interagency agreements.

## Market Development

The mission of ISDA's Market Development program is to "promote Idaho's food and agriculture industry by expanding opportunities in domestic and foreign markets fostering industry growth and profitability." As such, the Department promotes Idaho food and agriculture products in Idaho and around the world.

Approximately 30% of Idaho's agriculture is exported to foreign markets. Idaho agriculture experienced significant export growth in FY2008 reaching a new record of \$1.78 billion, up over 33% from FY2007. Canada remained Idaho's top agricultural export market and Mexico was close behind in the number two export market position, followed by Japan. With the global economic situation, exports are expected to decline in FY2009. Long term prospects for export growth, however, remain positive.



*Governor Otter demonstrated a tortilla wrap recipe in Taiwan*

Martin of the Snake River Grill in Hagerman conducted a chef training followed by the first ever Young Chef Competition in Macau. The chefs were given a "black box" containing Idaho and Western U.S. products. The Governor presented the Chef Awards during a product showcase and networking reception. The Idaho potato industry is now shipping containers of fresh potatoes to Macau directly as a result of the mission at an estimated annual value of \$100,000.

During the mission, the Governor also kicked off the WUSATA Taiwan Menu Promotion organized by ISDA. Over fifty members of the Taiwanese press attended the kick off press conference and the Governor prepared a favorite pinwheel recipe using Idaho beef, tortillas, and vegetables. Exports to Taiwan as a result of the mission were expected to increase \$1.5 million annually. In addition, the Grand Hyatt Taipei has

During the past fiscal year, Governor C.L. "Butch" Otter led an international trade mission to Asia October 11 - 26 with stops in Hong Kong, Macau, Vietnam and Taiwan. This was the first time ever for an Idaho Governor to visit Hong Kong, Macau or Vietnam in an official capacity. Companies were able to secure high level appointments in these new markets. "There is amazing potential for new business," said Rick Kay of Fresca Mexican Foods.

The Governor attended the "Flavors of the American West" promotion in Macau sponsored by ISDA in cooperation with the Western US Agricultural Trade Association (WUSATA) and Macau Culinary Association (MCA). Idaho Chef Kirt



*Governor presented awards for the Young Chef Competition in Macau*



*Director Gould and Jay Thieler, AB Foods with the Gen Mgr of the Grand Hyatt, Taipei*

since switched from using Australian beef to exclusively Idaho beef.

The Taiwan menu promotion continued through November and ended December 7. Chef Randy King, Executive Chef of the Doubletree Riverside Hotel, conducted 8 chef trainings and participated in multiple media events. The promotion included 30 restaurants and hotels in two different cities.

The WUSATA Mexico Onion Promotion coordinated by ISDA in conjunction with the Idaho-Eastern Oregon Onion Committee was the most successful ever. Four retailers promoted onions in 107 of their stores in 13 cities throughout Mexico in November and December. For the first time ever, Costco Mexico offered yellow onions in their stores. In-store demos, POS materials and



*In-store signage promoted the sweet flavor of yellow onions to Mexican consumers*

recipes promoted yellow onions from the region. Total sales to Mexico topped \$10.5 million for the season.

The Department hosted the 18<sup>th</sup> Tri-National Agriculture Accord August 13-16, 2008, in Coeur d'Alene. The 18<sup>th</sup> Accord brought together secretaries, commissioners, directors, ministers and senior government officials from the Canadian provinces, U.S. states and Mexican states to offer resolutions to trade disputes among the three countries and address common cross-border issues such as animal and plant health harmonization, product labeling and standards. This was the first time the Accord was ever held in Idaho.



Idaho Preferred®, the Department's primary domestic program, continues to expand, providing valuable marketing assistance to over 200 Idaho producer participants. Farmers, ranchers, processors, specialty food companies and farmers markets are benefiting from consumers' growing demand for local products and recognition that the Idaho Preferred® logo identifies food and agriculture products from the Gem State. Retail and foodservice promotions, radio and television advertising, public relations, consumer events, and education projects all work to increase market opportunities for Idaho Preferred® participants.

Retail partnerships are a critical component of the Idaho Preferred® program. Currently 15 grocery stores/chains and 21 farmers markets identify locally grown products with the Idaho Preferred® logo in ads, signage and at point of sale. Foodservice promotions recognize restaurants that include and identify Idaho Preferred® items on their menus and



help producers find new markets for their products. Chefs were the target of five "Farmer-Chef Collaboratives" held in Idaho Falls, Moscow, Coeur d'Alene, Boise, and Sun Valley in the past fiscal year. Forty-eight restaurants from across the state met face-to-face with nearly 100 producers to source local products for their restaurants. At each Collaborative, farmer-chef teams provided tips on how to build a successful farmer-

Awareness of the Idaho 41% of consumers statewide reporting having seen or heard television ads were part the Idaho extensive public relations efforts. First Lady Lori Otter kicked off the September celebration with a "Locavore for a Day" media event that resulted in a six week "What's Fresh" feature in the Idaho Statesman - a media value of over \$56,000! The fourth annual "Taste of Idaho" sponsored by Idaho Preferred®, Albertsons, Sysco, and Peak Broadcasting was also a part of the month-long celebration and allowed consumers to meet local growers and taste and buy Idaho foods and wines. A new Chef Challenge was added to the event that featured 8 of Idaho's top chefs preparing fresh Idaho foods and pairing them with local wines.

*Chefs sample product at  
Farmer-Chef Collaborative  
in Coeur d'Alene*

Preferred® program continues to increase with aware of the brand and nearly 80% of those the message in the media. Effective radio and Preferred® Month celebration which also included



#### Idaho Farm Families Locally Grown Fresh Apples

Throughout the summer season, Albertsons produce buyers are in direct contact with area growers. We take great pride in harvesting only the finest available fruits and vegetables from local farming communities, ensuring you the greatest selection and the freshest quality. Albertsons has the direct line to freshness! Whether it's apples, peaches, cherries, corn, watermelons or nectarines, you are guaranteed the very best the area has to offer. There's no need to travel because Albertsons brings the farmstead directly to you!

**Albertsons**  
WE GO DIRECTLY TO THE SOURCE FOR FRESHNESS!



*chef relationship.  
In-store posters showcase  
local growers*

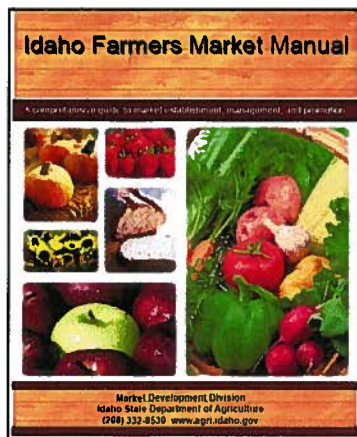
Partnerships with the Department of Education and Idaho Agriculture in the Classroom continue to be effective tools for reaching schools with Idaho Preferred® products and educational materials. "Incredible Edible Idaho" posters featuring nutrition and production facts on a different Idaho food product each month continue to be sent to nearly 900 teachers and school cafeterias. The Idaho Preferred® school fundraiser, now in its fifth year, provides schools with the opportunity, to sell Idaho apples, potatoes, pears, barley soup and other healthy food items while raising funds for educational purposes.

Currently 25 nursery-related companies participate in the Idaho Preferred® program. A new TV commercial was produced and aired in the spring to promote locally-grown plants. In addition, banners, plant stakes, and tree tags are used to identify nursery items that are "Grown with Pride in Idaho." A prominent link on the Idaho Preferred® website helps consumers find locally-grown plants, trees and flowers as well as breads, produce, meats, wines and gifts. Traffic to the updated Idaho Preferred® website doubled in 2008.



*First Lady Lori Otter kicked  
off Idaho Preferred Month as  
a "Locavore for a Day"*

Farmers markets in Idaho are growing rapidly, doubling in the last three years to a total of 48. Regional market manager and vendor trainings were held around the state in Moscow, Orofino, Crouch, Nampa, Caldwell, Challis, Salmon, Pocatello and Rexburg. Topics included food safety, sales tax, EBT cards, promotion, vendor best practices and event planning. In addition to the workshops, the Division revised the Idaho Farmers Market Manual and published the annual Guide to Idaho Farmers' Markets.



The Division also participated in targeted trade shows with Idaho or regional pavilions at Seoul Foods in Korea, HRI Show in Los Cabos, Mexico, Table Top Show in Taipei, Taiwan and both the Sysco Foodservice and FSA Food Service Shows in Boise.

Further, the division hosted numerous trade teams and officials throughout the year from Hong Kong, Macau, Taiwan, Southeast Asia, Korea, China, Mexico and Cuba. Additional highlights include sponsoring an educational workshop on Exporting to the Middle East and revising the Starting a Specialty Foods Business Manual, now in it's 8<sup>th</sup> edition.

## Division of Animal Industries

The Division of Animal Industries consists of the Dairy/CAFO Bureau, Animal Health and Livestock Bureau and the Rangeland Management Program. The division has 46 full-time employees and an annual budget of approximately \$6.3 million. Major functions are described in the following bureau and program summaries.

### Dairy/CAFO Bureau

The **Dairy/CAFO Bureau** provides oversight of the dairy industry in Idaho. This oversight helps to ensure safe, wholesome milk and milk products for consumers. The program encompasses sanitary inspections of dairy farms, bulk



milk haulers, processors, manufacturing and processing equipment, warehouses, stores and other businesses where milk and dairy products are manufactured, stored, sold or offered for sale. The program also includes finished dairy product testing for compliance with state and national standards and an FDA approved laboratory certification program for industry and private laboratories. Additionally, this bureau conducts the inspection and grading of establishments where shell eggs are packaged, stored or offered for sale.

This bureau is also responsible for the protection of ground and surface water from dairy farm waste and waste generated on beef cattle animal feeding operations. Routine inspections are conducted of waste handling and containment facilities, land application sites and new or modified systems and facilities.

*Dry milk processing plant in southern Idaho*

In addition to state enforcement requirements, this bureau works in conjunction with several federal agencies through cooperative agreements or memoranda of agreement to protect the environment and ensure safe food products. Laws and rules require all dairy farms and CAFOs to develop Nutrient Management Plans (NMPs). These plans aid in the appropriate applications of nutrients to cropland. A certification process has been implemented to assist in the development of NMPs and to certify soil samplers. Under the new rules which took effect September 1, 2007, soil samples from dairy and beef operations must be taken by "certified soil samplers" and tested in labs that have been approved by the North America Proficiency Testing Program. The department conducts NMP inspections and reviews or obtains soil tests to verify compliance.

The bureau is responsible for enforcement of the Agriculture Odor Management Act as it relates to Idaho dairy farms. Dairy farms that emit odors in excess of those odors normally associated with acceptable agricultural practices in Idaho will be required to develop an Odor Management Plan to reduce odors. The bureau works in conjunction with the University of Idaho, private industries, and the industry to find economically viable and effective means to minimize offensive odors on dairy farms. The bureau, through a Memorandum of Understanding with the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality also conducts dairy farm inspections on the larger dairy farms for the control of ammonia emissions. Dairy Bureau staff also conducts Organic dairy and milk processing inspections for those operations requesting ISDA certification under the state organic program.

### Animal Health and Livestock Bureau

The **Animal Health and Livestock Bureau** is responsible for regulatory animal disease control and prevention programs through the inspection and investigation of livestock and livestock facilities, and the regulation of movement of animals in intrastate, interstate and international commerce. This bureau also operates the State Animal Health Laboratory. Bureau staff participate in the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Cooperative Disease Control programs for cattle,



horses, swine, sheep, domestic cervidae, ratites, llamas, poultry and fish. Idaho's Locate in 48 is one such program, intended to enable 48-hour traceability of diseased or exposed animals and provide livestock owners with valuable information in the event of a disease outbreak. The bureau and the Idaho Department of Fish and Game are working cooperatively to address brucellosis in free-ranging elk migrating out of the Greater Yellowstone Area.

Bureau staff field hundreds of calls and answer numerous questions and inquiries from the public, veterinary practitioners, and livestock producers on matters pertaining to disease control, preventive medicine, interstate shipment, herd management, animal care and waste management. They issue permits or licenses for animal agriculture functions and provide animal welfare education, investigate animal care complaints and work cooperatively with law enforcement agencies and the court system in the resolution of animal care cases and animal movement violations.

The bureau is also responsible for the prevention, monitoring, and control of emerging and emergency diseases affecting animals. Idaho veterinarians and veterinary technicians are trained in emergency disease recognition and response. The bureau coordinates with the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare to address diseases that are transmissible between animals and humans, and with the Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security on animal health emergency management. The State Animal Health Laboratory serves consumers and agriculture through prioritized testing of animal samples and dairy products for diseases or agents targeted as most important to animal health and human safety.

### **Rangeland Management Program**

The primary duties of the **Rangeland Management Program** are to provide leadership, technical support and assistance to Idaho rangeland livestock producers. This support is delivered to both individual producers upon request and to local groups and associations through leadership and participation in collaborative teams such as local sage grouse working groups. Services include assistance for planning and implementing Best Management Practices (BMPs), including grazing systems, range improvements, and inventory and monitoring. Support is provided to livestock producers in reviewing and mediating agency actions, including those actions imposed under the Endangered Species Act, environmental analysis and agency planning and management decisions, which impact private and federal grazing allotments.

### **Recent Achievements**

- Improved manure/odor management.
- Revised numerous regulatory rules for clarity and brevity.
- Tested approximately 40,000 head of Idaho dairy cattle for tuberculosis in response to trace outs from a diseased herd in California. No animals were found to be infected.
- Registered over 19,000 Idaho livestock premises in the National Animal Identification System.
- Animal Health Laboratory began to implement a Training and Document Management Program to enhance its Quality Assurance System.
- Animal Health Laboratory implemented several molecular diagnostic assays to detect animal diseases.
- Department employees statewide trained in National Incident Management System and Incident Command System.
- Successfully eradicated a low-pathogenic type of avian influenza in a gamebird farm.
- Co-sponsored state-wide delivery of Foreign Animal Disease Response courses and Agriculture Facility Vulnerability Assessment course.

- Inventoried an additional 281 Beef Animal Feeding Operations for compliance with environmental Beef Animal Feeding Operation law and rules.
- Certified 147 Nutrient Management Soil Samplers.

**Future Goals**

- Participate in National Animal Health Lab Network surveillance for foreign animal diseases.
- Educate more local emergency managers, extension personnel, and producers on agro-terrorism threats and risk management to address the National Preparedness Goal of the U. S. Department of Homeland Security.
- Expand education programs for producers on Good Biosecurity Practices for farms, ranches, and food processing facilities.
- Continue working collaboratively with USDA APHIS restructuring the U.S. brucellosis and tuberculosis programs.
- Complete an inventory of all Beef Animal Feeding Operations for environmental compliance.
- Retrofit Beef Livestock Facilities with “waters of the state” discharge concerns within a 1-2 year period.

## Division of Plant Industries

The Plant Industries Division is responsible for: consumer protection, export certification, pest exclusion, control of grasshoppers and Mormon crickets, noxious weeds, the certification of organic food products, and the inspection of potato brands and potatoes at the retail outlets. The division has 46 full-time and 25-40 seasonal temporary employees.

### Consumer Protection

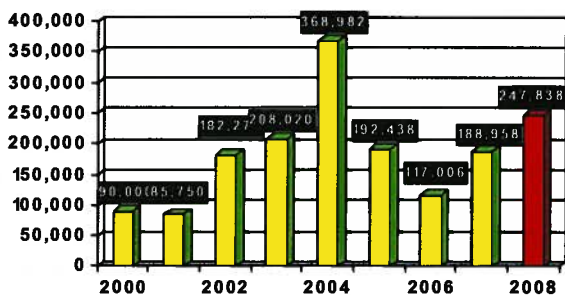
In 2008, the division issued 2,150 nursery licenses; 690 seed dealer's licenses; 1,265 registration certificates for 14,836 feed products; 574 registration certificates for 6,509 fertilizer products; 176 registration certificates for 707 soil and plant amendment products; and 77 beekeeper registrations. Division inspectors randomly sample to test for compliance to truth-in-labeling for pet food, animal feed, fertilizers, and seeds offered for sale. The laboratories conducted 5,088 tests on feed samples; 2,256 tests on fertilizer samples; and 5,580 tests on seed samples. Inspectors also conducted 1,113 nursery inspections for pests, diseases and noxious weeds. Through this program, the sale of animal feed products contaminated with aflatoxin, fumonisin or vomitoxin have been prevented. In addition, these measures have prevented the spread of noxious weeds by stopping the sale of contaminated seed lots.

### Invasive Plant Pest Surveys and Grasshopper Suppression Program

The most important goal of this program is the early detection of invasive or exotic plant pests. Each year this division conducts surveys on high priority invasive threats to the Gem state. Early detection allows for possible eradication, limiting spread and development of appropriate Integrated Pest Management technologies to mitigate a pest's negative environmental and economic impact to the state. This year's surveys were conducted for: apple maggot, gypsy moth, light brown apple moth, old world bollworm, Japanese beetle, potato tuberworm, imported red fire ant, and exotic nematodes including potato cyst nematode. This program also provides data to meet the phytosanitary requirements for a number of countries and states, and validates Idaho quarantines. In 2008, no adult Japanese beetles were caught in detection traps although ISDA is watching a serious infestation of the pest in nearby Orem, Utah. In 2008 no potato tuberworm moths were captured in pheromone traps in southwest Idaho.



The statewide gypsy moth survey, a cooperative effort with Idaho Department of Lands and the USFS, captured two males in two traps in Meridian and a single male near Hayden. Delimitation surveys at both sites will be initiated in 2009.



Southeast, southwest and northern Idaho experienced major grasshopper outbreaks in 2008. Damage to hayfields, pastures, rangeland, gardens and landscape plants were observed throughout these areas. The southeast and southwest infestations were a mixture of *Melanoplus sanguinipes*, *M. femurrubrum*, *Aulocara elliotti* and *Camnula pellucida* grasshopper species. New infestations were found further north in Kootenai, Benewah and Latah Counties and was dominated by the *Camnula pellucida* grasshopper. The late summer and fall season should have allowed exceptional oviposition opportunities, and there are currently no factors that would indicate

any

reason to expect major decreases in overall grasshopper populations in 2009. The Mormon cricket, *Anabrus simplex*, outbreak continued to decline in 2008 compared to 2007 and 2006. The Owyhee County infestation was similar to 2007 while infestations were limited in Adams and Washington Counties and continued to occur in Oneida, Power and Bannock Counties. Control activities have decreased for the second year in a row with fewer calls for assistance on Mormon cricket infestations.

Progress was made in 2008 on the eradication of Potato Cyst Nematode in Idaho. Several thousand acres of associated fields have been released from regulated status. However, a ninth infested field was detected in December of 2008 during the course of taking delimiting or de-regulating samples, bringing the total number of acres regulated to 1,117. PPQ has

conducted comprehensive sampling to construct PCN cyst density maps of the nine infested fields. Multi-faceted eradication efforts are in progress with the centerpiece being soil fumigation of the fields with methyl bromide and Telone®.

## Export Certification

Idaho is a major producer of agricultural seeds. In 2008, Idaho exported over 168 million pounds of alfalfa, field and garden beans, sweet corn, Kentucky bluegrass, peas, onion seeds, and miscellaneous agricultural products to 92 countries. The division's staff inspected 66,113.50 acres of crops; the plant pathology laboratory conducted 11,768 tests on 776 plant samples for diseases; and the division issued 524 state and 4,311 federal phytosanitary certificates. The division continues to work to overcome phytosanitary trade barriers, which restrict the export of Idaho agricultural products.

## Noxious Weeds Program

The Noxious Weeds Program has the primary responsibility for implementing the Idaho Noxious Weed Law and Idaho's Strategic Plan for Managing Noxious Weeds. Staff provides leadership, training and support to local Cooperative Weed Management Areas (CWMAs) around the state. The 2008 Cost Share Program provided over \$2.4 million in grants to CWMAs and statewide groups to implement on-the-ground integrated weed management. The program applicants matched the cost share dollars with over \$7.5 million, treating over 141,000 acres and mapping over 1.1 million acres. Other programs administered by the staff include the Noxious Weed-Free Forage and Straw Program and the Noxious Weeds Mapping and Inventory Program.



*Eurasian Watermilfoil  
dangles from boat and trailer*

The Idaho Legislature provided another \$4 million for the Eurasian Watermilfoil Control Program. This program funded 16 projects and completed control of more than 4,000 surface acres of milfoil in Idaho lakes last year. Focus of the projects was eradication. Control methods used were aquatic herbicide applications, bottom

barriers, diver assisted vacuum-hand removal, boat wash stations as well as education and prevention programs for the public.

**The Idaho Invasive Species Law** was enacted by the Legislature in 2008. The intent of this law is to address the increasing threat of invasive species in the State of Idaho by providing policy direction, planning and authority to combat invasive species infestations and to prevent the introduction of new invasive species. This law establishes the duties of ISDA, authorizes the director to promulgate rules and gives authority to conduct inspections as necessary. It also established the **Idaho Invasive Species Fund (IISF)**.

### Recent Achievements

- Presentation of exotic pest detection programs at professional meetings and conferences.
- Conducted an industry audit of the feed tonnage reporting system.
- Optimized and initiated potato cyst nematode viability testing.
- Drafted an Invasive Species Act that was passed by the Legislature.
- Developed and initiated an eradication program for Hydrilla in Owyhee County.
- Initiated a statewide Early Detection Rapid Response network with IDFG and Idaho Power.
- Conducted boater decontamination trainings for aquatic nuisance species to state, federal and local agency personnel.
- Cooperated with USDA trace forward inspections on Idaho potato growers who may have received nematode infested seed potatoes from infested farms in Alberta, Canada.

- Cooperated with USDA trace forward inspections of nurseries who received nursery stock infested with Sudden Oak Death.
- The Fertilizer lab increased their ability to process samples for heavy metal contamination.

### Future Goals

- Monitor the survival and establishment of bio-control agents for cereal leaf beetle.
- Expand exotic pest surveys to Silver Y moth and Light Brown Apple moth.
- Cooperate with USDA to eradicate the potato cyst nematode from the state.
- Develop a paperless inspection, sampling and registration system.
- Cooperate with the 100<sup>th</sup> Meridian Initiative and participate in Quagga Mussel Rapid Response exercise for the Columbia River Basin.
- Expand surveys for aquatic nuisance species in geothermal areas of the state.

- Promulgate rules to implement the Idaho Invasive Species Act of 2008.

## Division of Agricultural Resources

The Division of Agricultural Resources works to promote, direct and ensure safe agricultural and environmental practices. The division registers pesticides, and trains and licenses pesticide applicators and chemigators. Coordination with agriculture professionals, agencies and the public has improved the processes in protecting human health, the environment and fish and wildlife species of the state from potential adverse effects of pesticides. Major functions are described below.

The **Enforcement Program** investigates complaints of pesticide misuse, and monitors pesticide use throughout Idaho. ISDA works through a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to ensure compliance with federal and state pesticide laws and rules. Compliance is achieved through educational seminars and audits, compliance assistance and regulatory activities. In FY2009 the division conducted 213 investigations, inspections and compliance audits. Forty allegations of pesticide misuse were filed with ISDA, which is the second lowest number of complaints received for a fiscal year. Two hundred eleven enforcement actions were taken consisting of 23 hearings and 16 civil complaints against applicators and/or dealers resulting in 32 civil penalties, eight license revocations and 22 license suspensions. Other enforcement actions consisted of 37 warning letters, 70 regulatory letters, and three stop sale, use, or removal orders. Eight cases were forwarded to EPA for review and potential enforcement action. The ISDA also incorporated pesticide containment rules by referencing the federal regulations for containment.

The **Pesticide Licensing and Certification/Pesticide Applicator Training Program** verified recertification credits for close to 900 seminars throughout Idaho in FY2009, with ISDA actively conducting training in more than 120 of them. Five major applicator training events occurred during FY2009: Environmental Care Association Conference, Idaho Potato School, Southwest Idaho Farm Show, Southwest Idaho Pesticide Applicator Certification Training and the North Idaho Pesticide Applicator Certification Training. Future cooperation with University of Idaho Extension will provide applicators with more educational opportunities. ISDA provided for over 150 applicator testing sessions throughout Idaho during FY2009 to certify pesticide applicators. Over 8,000 pesticide applicators and dealers are licensed and supported.



*Soil fumigation prior to planting strawberries in Northern Idaho*

Over 10,000 pesticide products were registered for sale and distribution in Idaho for calendar year 2008 by the **Pesticide Registration Program**. Pesticide labels are reviewed to ensure compliance with state and federal laws and rules, and assists growers and industry through the registration of emergency and special local need pesticides for agricultural pests.

The **Idaho WPS/Farm Worker Safety Program** has been recognized as a national leader for its accomplishments. Since implementation of the program, WPS staff has logged over 68,000 contacts with the agriculture community including training 732 certified trainers, 10,788 handlers and 17,159 workers in safe pesticide use. The Worker Protection Program has increased pesticide awareness, promoted proper pesticide use, and encouraged the proper use of personal protective equipment. In FY2009, the field operations staff conducted 48 Tier I inspections, 23 Tier II inspections, and 55 WPS pesticide label inspections.

The **Private Applicator Recordkeeping Program** continues to work with the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) that requires certified private applicators to maintain Restricted Use Pesticide application records for two years. In FY2009, ISDA conducted 150 initial recordkeeping inspections, issued five warning letters for record violations and conducted one follow-up inspection from a warning letter issued in FY2008. Since entering into the cooperative agreement with USDA, ISDA has published a recordkeeping handbook in English and Spanish for private applicators in Idaho; published a brochure that outlines recordkeeping requirements for private applicators, professional applicators and dealers; made over 6,000 personal contacts concerning the program; and conducted over 1,700 inspections in Idaho. In addition, the private applicator recordkeeping program through the Idaho One Plan is complete and will be released in the very near future.

**The Container Recycling Project (CROP)** is a free service to users of pesticides to recycle empty pesticide containers that have been properly rinsed. In 2008, the two CROP program trucks were able to chip over 136,000 pounds of plastic. Since the program started in 1994, over a million containers have been recycled, keeping those cleaned containers out of the landfills or being otherwise illegally disposed of. The chipped plastic may be recycled into drain field pipe, pallets, fence posts, speed bumps, and parking lot stops.

**The Pesticide Disposal Program (PDP)** is another free service for pesticide users to dispose of unusable pesticides in an environmentally conscientious manner. The program conducts two major collections each year - one in the north and one in southern Idaho. Those two major collections were able to safely collect and dispose of 72,924 pounds of unusable pesticides in 2008. Since the start of the program in 1993, over 946,000 pounds of unusable pesticides have been safely and properly disposed of.

**The Water Quality Program** implements agricultural water quality protection programs for ground and surface water primarily related to pesticides. Program activity includes the implementation of the Agricultural Ground Water Quality Protection Program for Idaho, Rules Governing Pesticide Management Plans for Ground Water Protection, ground and surface water quality monitoring for pesticides, water quality education of applicators and the public, and coordination with public and private partners to protect ground and surface water quality. ISDA implements ground and surface water monitoring and protection projects throughout the state related to pesticide impacts and coordinates these activities with other water quality agencies in Idaho.

**The Idaho Pesticide and Chemigation** law requires that a minimum of 250 chemigation equipment inspections be conducted each year—272 were conducted in FY2009. Also, as part of the EPA Cooperative Agreement, ISDA was to conduct 3 chemigation use inspections during FY2009, ISDA conducted 4 chemigation use inspections. ISDA will conduct a minimum of 5 chemigation use inspections during FY2010. Working with industry, ISDA continues to add chemigation equipment to its list of approved equipment for chemigation. Updated lists of approved chemigation equipment and the equipment approval application and independent laboratory testing forms can be found on ISDA's chemigation web page. There are currently 731 licensed chemigators in Idaho.

**The Urban Pesticide Program** works with non-agriculture pesticide users to promote the use of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) to control pests in urban situations. During FY2009, training designed for school administrative and maintenance personnel was offered through two IPM in Schools Workshops that featured a section on the USEPA's Healthy SEAT (School Environments Assessment Tool) Program. The ISDA Urban Pesticide/IPM Program continues to work with the new and existing mosquito abatement districts while conducting more urban inspections and school related outreach activities. Review of Boise School District's pest management practices will be used as a foundation for a workshop planned for the fall of 2009, with emphasis on pesticide safety and implementation of IPM programs in large schools. Mosquito control continues to be a key issue. There were thirty-six confirmed human cases of West Nile virus during 2008 with one fatality. The numbers for 2009 indicate a late on-set of the disease in mosquito vector species and only one confirmed human case was reported by the end of June 2009.

#### **Recent Achievements**

- Conducted water quality pesticides monitoring related to ground and surface water.
- Completed and implemented Rules Governing Pesticide Management Plans for Ground Water Protection.
- Collected and recycled over 136,000 pounds of emptied and cleaned plastic pesticide containers in the Container Recycling Operation (CROP) program in 2008.
- Since 1993, the Pesticide Disposal Program has safely and properly disposed of over 946, 000 pounds of unusable pesticides.
- WPS staff has made over 68,000 contacts with the agricultural community since implementation of the worker protection standard program.
- A new chemigation study manual was written and published as a means of educating chemigators in the proper injection of chemicals into irrigation water.
- **Future Goals**
- To reach one million pounds of unusable pesticides collected and safely disposed of in the Pesticide Disposal Program (PDP).

- Establish a communication link with school personnel to promote IPM in Schools Workshops and safe pesticide use.
- Employing TurningPoint Audience Response System (ARS) for Certification and Recertification Training to increased audience interest and raise testing scores. System will be evaluated for two years with the results used to create professional association journal article.
- Outreach to dealers and applicators on the new pesticide containment rules

# Division of Agricultural Inspections

## Bureau of Shipping Point Inspections

The Federal Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Inspection Service originated in 1917, but its authority was restricted to work in destination markets where the inspections were only made by Federal Market Inspectors. In 1922, Congress extended the service to shipping points by adding to the authority the words, "when offered for interstate shipment," and so began Idaho's Bureau of Shipping Point Inspection. This service is a joint federal-state program entirely supported by fees collected from users of the service.



(GAPs).

This bureau maintains a Boise headquarters staff along with four district offices strategically located in Idaho's production areas. Present locations are: Parma, Burley, Blackfoot, and Idaho Falls. The bureau is the largest within the Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA), serving producers, shippers and processors in 36 of the state's 44 counties. Annually, the bureau performs inspections on 10 different commodities and certifies over 10.6 billion pounds of produce. To provide this service, the bureau supports a staff of 400 employees in 17 different job classifications. Although some positions are staffed year-round, 75 percent of the workforce is employed in seasonal, part-time positions.

Employees of the Shipping Point Inspection program inspect commodities for quality and condition at the shipping point, using official grade standards developed by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and ISDA for fresh fruits and vegetables. The Bureau of Shipping Point Inspection established a third party auditing program that helps Idaho producers and shippers meet the increasing demand for Good Management Practices (GMPs), Good Handling Practices (GHPs), and Good Agricultural Practices

### *Grading peaches at packing shed*

On April 27, 2009, the ISDA signed a revised cooperative agreement with USDA to conduct surveillance reviews on Country of Origin Labeling (COOL) requirements as mandated by the 2002 farm bill. These reviews will be conducted by the Bureau of Shipping Point Inspection Program. The effective date for all covered commodities was subsequently postponed until September 30, 2006, and later delayed until September 30, 2008. Covered commodities include muscle cuts of beef (including veal), lamb, goat, pork, and chicken; ground beef (including veal), ground lamb, ground goat, ground pork, and ground chicken; farm-raised fish and shellfish (fresh and frozen); wild-caught fish and shellfish (fresh and frozen); perishable agricultural commodities fresh and frozen (fruits and vegetables); pecans; macadamia nuts; peanuts; and ginseng.

### Recent Achievements

- In cooperation with USDA-AMS, developed a customer driven Fed-State Audit Verification and Training program for good agricultural and handling practices increasing marketing opportunities for Idaho's fresh fruit and vegetable industry.
- Issued phytosanitary inspection certificates on loads of fruit and vegetables certified and shipped to 24 different countries.
- Established a chemical maturity monitoring testing station to control sucrose and glucose content levels in potato tubers during the growing and development stages and during storage life.
- Annually conduct over 350 third-party food safety audits for producers and packers.
- Under cooperative agreements with USDA, conducts COOL retail surveillance activities.

- Work with USDA to secure auditor licenses allowing our USDA GAP/GHP audit trained staff to conduct USDA audits.

### Future Goals

- Continue to improve communication between office, field staff, and industry through computer technology.
- Provide industry with services requested in a timely manner and at a cost-effective rate.
- Maintain up-to-date information on all aspects of food safety and food security.
- Develop more precise information gathering and tracking practices through the timesheet entry program.
- Rewrite the Shipping Point Inspection computer program to keep up with technology, requests for electronic communication, and timely results.

- Work with USDA and the Idaho agriculture industry to maintain up-to-date information on all aspects of

COOL requirements and to assist Idaho's agriculture industry in meeting those requirements.

## Organic and Hops Program

The Idaho State Department of Agriculture is an accredited organic certifying agency with the United States Department of Agriculture National Organic Program (NOP). Currently the Idaho Organic Program provides certification to 250 producers and handlers on 38 different commodities in 36 of Idaho's 44 counties. There has been a reorganization in the organic program to allow an Agricultural Investigator Senior to work more closely with the field staff.

The Hop Program inspection station has been moved to Parma to more efficiently meet the needs of the hop producers. In 2008 there were 21,397 bales sampled and inspected.



*Hops*



*Hops field*

### Recent Achievements

- Instituted a new electronic tracking procedure to ensure timely inspection and certification to customers.
- The Independent Organic Inspector Association trained dairy inspectors within the Department Dairy Bureau to conduct organic dairy inspections.
- The Independent Organic Inspector Association also trained additional inspectors in 23 counties to perform crop, livestock, other than dairy, and handler inspections.

### Future Goals

- Improve communication between headquarters office, field staff and industry through computer technology.
- Provide customers with timely service at a cost effective rate.



*Organic Grapes*

## Warehouse Control Program

ISDA's Warehouse Control Program is responsible for regulating public warehouses, commodity dealers and seed buyer facilities. Idaho's agricultural warehouse and seed industries store and market a wide variety of commodities such as wheat, barley, oats, dry edible beans, peas, lentils, and a number of other diverse seed crops grown in Idaho.

Warehouse examiners conduct reviews, which help to ensure that a warehouse operator continues to maintain a stock of commodities reflective of what has been deposited by producers. Commodity dealers are also examined to ensure that producers are being paid for their agricultural commodities.



The Commodity Indemnity Fund (CIF) and the Seed Indemnity Fund (SIF) offer additional protection for producers should a warehouse, commodity dealer, or seed buyer failure occur. These two \$12 million funds are supported by producers' assessments and allow producers to recoup losses due to such a failure.

#### **Recent Achievements**

- Worked with industry to obtain passage of new laws to protect CIF from loss due to uninsurable perils, and to require commodity dealers to carry peril insurance on inventories for which they still owe producers for purchases of crops.
- Reviewed SIF operations and laws for potential improvements.
- Updated Boise office procedures and cross trained staff.
- Completed more than 60 months without a licensee financial failure.

#### **Future Goals**

- Work with industry to obtain passage of legislation to strengthen SIF operations and laws.
- Transfer an examiner to North Idaho to improve service.
- Continue to monitor industry closely for impacts due to market volatility and changes to commodity trading rules.

### **Bureau of Weights and Measures**

The Bureau of Weights and Measures' responsibilities include statewide inspection of accuracy and suitability of commercial weighing and measuring devices such as vehicle and livestock scales, petroleum meters, gas pumps and propane meters. Packaged products are inspected to ensure net contents meet labeled weight, volume or count. The bureau investigates complaints of short delivery, misleading advertisements and monitors gasoline octane. The bureau is responsible for Idaho's fuel quality and labeling. The metrology laboratory provides traceable calibration of mass, length and volume standards for the weights and measures program, registered service agencies and private industry needing National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) traceability. The metrology laboratory is currently recognized by NIST as a participant in the measurement assurance program for state laboratories.

#### **Recent Achievements**

- Reorganized and cross trained office staff.
- Streamlined the Boise office procedures for licensing and data entry which resulted in saving time and money.
- The metrology laboratory received a two year certificate of traceability from NIST in mass, volume and length disciplines.
- Updated the metrology laboratory quality system to meet ISO 17025 standards.

#### **Future Goals**

- Continue to work toward accreditation for the Metrology Laboratory by the National Voluntary Laboratory Accreditation Program (NVLAP).
- Develop web based programs for customers to access device license and weighmaster applications online and pay by credit card.
- Continue module training for inspection staff through train the trainer courses provided by the National Conference on Weights and Measures and NIST.
- Accomplish 100% annual device inspection.
- Attend national and regional weights and measures conferences to provide input and vote on issues that are published annually in

NIST handbooks and then adopted in statute as reference documents in Idaho.